



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 10

Meeting Date: October 20, 2006

Meeting Location: Child Advocates, Indianapolis

Council Members Present: Chair Dan Carmin, MCDACS; Maribryan McGeney, MCDACS; Judge Beth Jansen, Marion Superior Court- Juvenile Division; Taren Duncan, MCDACS; Susie Kennedy, MCDACS; Maggie Cooper, Foster Parent; Rhonda Allen, MCDACS; Judge Marilyn Moores, Marion Superior Court- Juvenile Division

Council Members Absent: Cindy Booth, Child Advocates; Mary Ann West, MCDACS; Judge Kelly Rota-Autry, Marion Superior Court- Juvenile Division

Others In Attendance: Jon Bennett, Children's Bureau; Jackie Votapek, United Way; Rod Babcock, Wernle Children's Home; Stacy Forbes, Marion Superior Court- Juvenile Division; Brant Ping and Jodi Stuck, Marion County Superior Court- Child and Adolescent Placement Project

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 9:12 a.m.

I. Call the Meeting to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

- a) Minutes from the Sept. 22, 2006. Jansen made a motion to approve and Kennedy 2nd the motion. The Council approved the Sept 22, 2006 minutes.
- b) Minutes will be available on the DCS website. The minutes will be put on the website after Regional Service Council approves the minutes.
- c) Council members and others in attendance should check the website for any cancellations.

III. Old Business

- a) Judge Jansen asked how the Practice Reform Training is going. Allen reported that training is going very well. They have gotten very good feedback. Judge Jansen wanted to know if there was

going to be a reduction in the number of CHINS filings. Allen stated, there will be a gradual reduction but it will be a slow process due to the process and supervision of the training. On Friday, Nov. 3 at 7:30 a.m. there will be an intensive informational session for Child Advocates, Court staff, and Public defenders. This will be located at the New Directions Gymnasium. There have been a number of questions related to the Practice Reform's impact on the system. There will be a brief presentation followed by a question and answer session for a total of a couple of hours or less.

IV. New Business

- a) Jon Bennett presented a new service for kids that are turning 17 and needing a "boarding home". This home will be used for kids that aren't ready for a scattered sites apartment but don't need a structured group home. Children's Bureau is proposing to create a Boarding Home Apartments Option. There would be an around the clock "house parent" living in the home. There would be 6 residents to this home. Children's Bureau currently has a location (Mallon House) that they plan to create individual efficiency rooms for a single resident supported by a communal kitchen, living and recreational space. Residents would have their own private rooms furnished to support their independent living growth and also provide in-house opportunities for peer support and on-site live in staffing model. Planned lengths of stay will vary based on individual needs and progress in the program. Referrals can come from foster care, group homes, residential, etc. There are no stipulations on where the kids are coming from. The boarding home would be geared towards young men. The home will not be licensed. The per diem for this home would be \$110.00. Staffing ratio would be a 1:6. Length of Stay would be from 3-6 months. Discharge options would be to scattered sites or emancipation. Services that will be offered are case management, on-site instruction and crisis response. A concern was raised that another provider is doing a service similar and they do not have any children in that home. Judge Moores stated that Children's Bureau can offer the continuum of services and the house parent model can benefit this population. Kennedy remarked that sometimes we have kids that come into the system at age 17 and just need some place to stay. Cooper stated that the service that Children's Bureau is proposing to provide is needed in Marion County. Bennett stated that if kids are going to public school, they will be able to continue going to that school. Bennett stated that they have a building sitting vacant. He would like some direction in the

next couple months regarding whether or not Children's Bureau can provide this service. If the Council is not interested in this service, then they would be interested in looking at other services. Carmin stated that they can have a decision to Children's Bureau in the next couple of months.

- b) Carmin stated that this is a good time for this discussion. We don't do enough for this population and offering a continuum of services. Votapek stated that the Regional Service Council may be interested in inviting the Chrysalis Academy and Fostering Independence to come and present on their programs. These programs are similar to what Children's Bureau is proposing. Bennett stated the difference between these programs and what Children's Bureau is proposing is that Children's Bureau will accept kids that are younger, there are programming differences, and the funding source will be different. Both Chrysalis Academy and Fostering Independence are accepting kids at this point. Carmin asked if there was some sort of document that outlines all these programs. Votapek stated that there is nothing currently but United Way is working on that.
- c) Votapek presented on the Connected by 25. An Executive Summary was distributed to the Council for review. Also distributed was a powerpoint presentation outlining the Connected by 25 Project. This project was started in 2003 by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. Beginning in 2005, Connected by 25 Community Plan was completed. The Project definition is: The Foster Youth Transitioning to Adulthood Project was initiated to assess the community's capacity to positively support foster youth as they transition from the child welfare system to adulthood. The vision is young people, age 14 to 25, in or emancipated from the child welfare system will have the social, emotional, and cognitive skills, as well as community and system supports to successfully transition to adulthood. In June of 2006 there were 535 14 and older kids in Marion County that were under the supervision of MCDCS. More than 75 foster youth age out of foster care each year in Marion County. Votapek remarked that one of the biggest challenges for these kids is accessing and navigating through all the services available to them. Connected by 25 is charged with helping these kids transition into adulthood and develop a coordinated system of care. Connected by 25 has a good logic model that will help guide them through this process. This is a demonstration project that will be re-evaluated in 3-5 years. The next steps for the project are

sufficient resources need to be secured to support system coordination; request for proposal for system coordination needs to be issued for competitive bidding; and evaluation, contract management and system coordination fully implemented. Carmin stated that evidence based-practice supports positive adults to be involved in these youth's lives. Votapek stated that she has a very large data base of adults that want to volunteer and help mentor kids. Judge Jansen stated that it would be very beneficial to have a list of possible mentor for the juvenile detention center.

- d) Judge Moores wanted to update the Council on paternity establishment. Forbes stated that Ryan Hakes has been hired to begin working with the court on the paternity side. He has a goal to get everyone signed up for paternity filings. There has been a lag since July. Judge Moores stated that children born into a marriage do not need paternity testing. Judge Jansen wanted to remind FCMs to get the birth certificates as quickly as possible. Allen stated that there is a problem at the Health Dept. to get these certificates. Judge Moores is going to work with Matt Guttwein to develop some protocol to obtain birth certificates. Forbes stated that they will now be able to really track the effectiveness of this program. Carmin would like to be included in on this data.

V. Services Needs of Marion County

- a) Carmin distributed the DCS CHINS JD/JS Statistical Report by County for September 2006 (Statewide Report). Currently there a total of 2912 CHINS: 1332 in Foster Care, 172 in residential, 489 in their own homes, 808 in relative care. There are total of 299 JD/JS: 3 are in foster homes, 117 in residential care, 122 in their own homes, and 0 in relative care.
- b) Carmin also distributed the DCS Intake Statistics by county of the # of reports coming in. In Sept. there was 1321 reports taken.
- c) Also distributed was the YTD 2006 Family and Children Fund Budget. Carmin stated DCS has received 9 ½ million reimbursement over the anticipated amount. Greg Bowes will be sponsoring a proposal to the City County Council that MCDCS will have to borrow about 5 million less than the anticipated budget amount.
- d) Carmin brought the Council's attention to a document that was distributed to Council titled "Draft- Program and Services, Protocols

for Regional Planning and Regional Service Council Review and Approval”.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: Nov. 17, 2006, 9:00 a.m. This will be held at Child Advocates.

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:39 a.m.